

Labor and Public Employee Committee

March 4, 2010

Raised Bill 5282 for requiring the Chairman of Workers Compensation to report on the functioning of the system annually to the Governor and legislative committee appears a bare minimum expectation of the position of Chairman. I am surprised there is a need to even legislate this. I applaud the intent of this legislation after the sudden departure on February 23, 2010 of Workers Compensation Chairman John Mastropietro from the Labor and Public Employee Hearing. The Chairman departed from the room after the damaging testimony regarding delays in medical treatment to injured workers.

The insurance companies have been denying treatments and requiring authorizations for everything from physical therapy after a surgery to medications. Worse is they are terminating reasonable and necessary treatment or medications without due process leaving the injured worker high and dry for months or even years before a resolution may be reached. We heard testimony February 23, 2010 of an injured worker who had spend thousands of dollars and years on appeal to win the most basic of treatment.

I have documentation on my website of a woman that won her case and of the insurance company frivolous appeal. She committed suicide in the interim. This wasn't a Connecticut case, not yet.

We heard testimony here last week from a former Workers Compensation Commissioner Mr. Miles. He reported on a 1998 Chairman directive pertaining to injured worker medical treatment that does not require pre-approval for every treatment under a physicians' care. Apparently this directive has not been followed during the tenure of Chairman John Mastropietro.

There was a Workers Compensation Commissioners meeting tomorrow March 5, 2010 where you could have gone to the source and asked about the 1998 medical treatment directive but unfortunately it has been canceled at the last minute.

It would be interesting to learn why the system turned around to require medical authorizations and pre-approval of every treatment. This is certainly burdensome on the physicans and would take up more time attending hearings than the treatment. Maybe this is why we can't get doctors to treat us.

I have said it before and I will say it again, this system needs a big quality control check up. Now there is proof beyond mine of corruption.

I think this committee should authorize an investigation of who did not get the medical treatment and what the effect on lives has been.

Sincerely,

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